Lawyer's Epilogue to Faust

The following is law as recorded by the author Thomas Higgins on Friday 21 Feb 2025.

Identity Theft:

In the United States, the penalties for attempted identity theft vary based on federal and state laws, as well as the specifics of the offense.

Federal Penalties:

Under federal law, identity theft is addressed by statutes such as 18 U.S.C. § 1028A, which deals with aggravated identity theft. This statute imposes a mandatory minimum sentence of two years in prison for offenses involving the unauthorized use of another person's identity in connection with certain felony violations. This sentence runs consecutively to any other sentence imposed for the related felony.

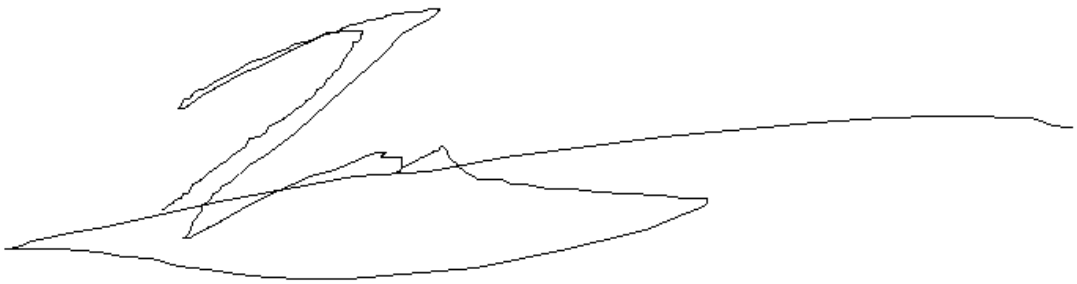
Additionally, penalties under 18 U.S.C. § 1028, which covers fraud related to identification documents and information, can vary based on the specifics of the crime. Convictions can result in imprisonment for up to 5, 15, 20, or even 30 years, plus fines, depending on factors such as the nature of the offense and its impact.

State Penalties:

State laws also impose penalties for identity theft, which can differ significantly between jurisdictions. For example, in the District of Columbia, identity theft in the first degree—where the value of the property obtained or the financial injury is $1,000 or more—can lead to imprisonment for up to 10 years and substantial fines. Second-degree identity theft, involving lesser amounts or certain other conditions, carries a maximum sentence of 180 days in jail.

Identity Theft in the First Degree:

In Connecticut, identity theft is a serious offense defined under Connecticut General Statutes § 53a-129a. The law criminalizes the unauthorized use of another person's personal identifying information to obtain money, credit, goods, services, property, or



medical information. Depending on factors such as the victim's age and the value obtained, identity theft can be charged in varying degrees, each carrying significant penalties.

For instance, Identity Theft in the First Degree involves cases where the victim is under 60 years old and the value obtained exceeds $10,000, or the victim is 60 years or older and the value exceeds $5,000. This offense is classified as a Class B felony, punishable by up to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to $15,000.

TJH